

**DIVISION OF BUILDING SAFETY  
PLUMBING BUREAU**

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
414 EAST FIRST AVENUE, POST FALLS, IDAHO  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2004**

*The following report is not intended to be a verbatim transcript of the discussions at the meeting, but is intended to record the significant features of those discussions.*

**DIVISION OF BUILDING SAFETY EMPLOYEES PRESENT**

Dave Munroe, Administrator, Division of Building Safety  
Ted Hogander, Bureau Chief, Plumbing Bureau  
Marsi Woody, Financial Officer, Division of Building Safety  
Rod Freligh, Inspector Supervisor, Plumbing Bureau  
Terry Blessing, Inspector, Plumbing Bureau  
Renee Bryant, Recorder

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Russ Firkins, Chairman  
Ray Coon  
Ben Schooley  
Bob Livesay

**GUESTS**

Rod Clay, S.W. Idaho Plumbers & Pipefitters, JATC  
Jerry Peterson, Idaho Building Trades  
Mike Kelly, Plumbers/Fitters Local Union 296  
Darin McNeil, Big D Plumbing and Heating  
Mike Duke, Duke Plumbing  
Dwight Perkins, International Association of Plumbers and Mechanical Officials

The September 10, 2004 Plumbing Board meeting, held at Templins Red Lion Hotel, 414 East First Avenue, Post Falls, Idaho, was brought to order at 9:02 a.m.

Mr. Firkins stated that Mr. Milford Terrell, Board Member, would not be attending the meeting.

**MOTION**

A Motion was made to accept the August 6, 2004 Plumbing Board Minutes with the exception of striking the last sentence in the second paragraph on page seven. The sentence reads, "Proof of three years on-the-job training is required for a person to be acknowledged as an HVAC apprentice." Mr. Coon never recalled nor did he feel that had been said. The motion was seconded and carried by unanimous vote.

## **AGENDA ITEM – EXTERIOR PIPE SIZING – IDAPA 07.02.06.011.011**

Mr. Firkins addressed a typographical error on the tab in the agenda booklet. The tab should read, “IDAPA 07.02.06.011.011” rather than “IDAPA 07.02.06.011.01”.

Mr. Firkins stated that the code was amended to require a minimum of four-inch (4”) line between a building and a sewer stub or septic connection. Some inspectors are interpreting the rule to mean anything outside the building needs to be four-inches (4”), while some inspectors and jurisdictions are just requiring four-inch (4”) between any building and the sewer stub or septic.

The item of business is to give clear direction to the Plumbing Bureau for inspector training. The proposal, for all applications, is to require a four-inch (4”) between any building and the sewer stub or septic and anything required by the code outside the building, except that it has to be a minimum of two inch (2”) underground. (Drawing in agenda booklet shows sizes and cleanouts.)

Mr. Firkins stated that the city of Boise Plumbing Department is enforcing the drawing in our agenda booklet.

## **MOTION**

A motion was made to accept the drawing that was included in the agenda booklet. The motion was seconded and carried by unanimous vote.

## **AGENDA ITEM – SEISMIC STRAPPING**

Mr. Hogander presented different sizes of seismic straps. His question was whether or not the Board wants to have seismic strapping be a part of the code or amend the code. Also, does the Board want to try to figure out where the seismic zones are, enforce it statewide or cancel the whole idea of having seismic strapping.

A discussion ensued regarding the UPC/IPC zones (areas) in Idaho that require strapping on water heaters.

Mr. Firkins asked the Board what they wish to do with Section 508.2, Seismic, Category “C”, “D”, “E” & “F” of the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC).

Mr. Coon felt if the Board agreed to pass anything they would need to pass it throughout the state, not just within certain jurisdictions. He also thought it was in our code and if we didn’t adopt it there could be liability issues.

Mr. Firkins expressed that the Board needs to decide if they are going to require the straps, if so where, and what would the specifications be for the strappings.

Mr. Firkins would like this item on the next board meeting agenda. He wants the Plumbing staff to see if there is any feasibility of actually defining the differentials that line that dividing line. He would like to see if there are any public reports so that the Board can actually determine the areas where they are required. If that is not feasible then a decision needs to be made on exactly those counties by some lines that are already drawn in our state laws, the county lines, and get it resolved.

## **MOTION**

A motion was made to accept the seismic strapping as part of our code throughout the state. Not hearing a second motion, the motion dies for lack of a second.

## **AGENDA ITEM – CONTRACTOR REFERENCE MANUAL**

The Plumbing Bureau has created a plumbing contractor reference manual. Mr. Firkins stated that the Board needed to review the reference manual and approve it for distribution.

The Board discussed the fees for the manual. The fee will be \$10.00 per manual, to offset printing costs to the Bureau.

## **MOTION**

A motion was made to accept and distribute the Plumbing Contractor Reference Manual. The second was made and carried by unanimous vote.

## **AGENDA ITEM – CONTRACTOR TEST**

Mr. Hogander explained the difference between the current contractor's test and the new contractor's test.

It was suggested at a previous board meeting that the test have 100 questions, a two-hour minimum and a passing grade of 75%. Question: Does the Board want to make the test an open or closed book test.

The Board discussed open book versus closed book tests, the percentage for passing the test, the amount of test questions and the time limit for taking the test.

Boise State University is the Plumbing Bureau's testing institute. Tests are given once a month in Coeur d'Alene, Boise and Pocatello. The testing date deadlines, for the remaining 2004 year, are as follows:

Boise		Coeur d'Alene		Pocatello	
Examination Date	Fee Deadline Date	Examination Date	Fee Deadline Date	Examination Date	Fee Deadline Date
<input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 9, 2004	Sept. 24 2004	<input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 16, 2004	Oct. 1, 2004	<input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 23, 2004	Oct. 8, 2004
<input type="checkbox"/> Nov. 6, 2004	Oct. 22, 2004	<input type="checkbox"/> Nov. 13, 2004	Oct. 29, 2004	<input type="checkbox"/> Nov. 20, 2004	Nov. 5, 2004
<input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 4, 2004	Nov. 19, 2004	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 11, 2004	Nov. 24, 2004	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 18, 2004	Dec. 3, 2004

The Board agreed that the Bureau should decrease the water softener questions and add more profit/loss, overhead questions to the test.

## **MOTION**

A motion was made to have the contractor test be an open book, 100 questions, two-hour time limit with a passing score of 75%. A second was made.

A motion was made to amend the motion to 50 test questions. A second was made. Two ayes and two nays. A majority needed to carry the motion. The motion does not pass.

A motion was made to amend the original motion to extend the length of the test from two-hours to a maximum of three-hours. The amending motion was seconded and carried by unanimous vote.

Voting on the original motion: Three ayes and one opposed to open book test. Motion passes.

The Board approved the contractor test as follows: Open book, 100 questions, three-hour time limit, passing score of 75% or higher.

### **AGENDA – 2005 MEETING SCHEDULE**

The proposed Plumbing Board meeting dates for 2005 are: Friday-January 21<sup>st</sup>, Meridian; Friday-April 8<sup>th</sup>, Meridian; Friday-June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Southern or Eastern Idaho and Friday-September 9<sup>th</sup>, Northern Idaho.

Mr. Munroe expressed that the Friday, January 21<sup>st</sup> meeting date was not conducive with his schedule and suggested moving the date to February 4<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Firkins agreed with Friday, February 4, 2005, stating that this would allow the Board to make any changes to proposed legislative documents, if needed, prior to the Legislative Session.

Also, the approved HVAC Board meeting dates are: Tuesday-November 2, 2004, Meridian; Tuesday-January 25, 2005, Meridian; Tuesday-April 26, 2005, Eastern or Southern Idaho; Tuesday-July 26, 2005, Meridian and Tuesday-October 25, 2005, Northern Idaho.

### **MOTION**

A motion was made to accept the Plumbing Board meeting dates as follows: Change the first meeting of 2005 from Friday-January 21<sup>st</sup> to Friday-February 4<sup>th</sup>, Meridian; Friday-April 8<sup>th</sup>, Meridian; Friday-June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Southern or Eastern Idaho; and Friday-September 9<sup>th</sup>, Northern Idaho. The motion was seconded and carried by unanimous vote.

### **AGENDA – HVAC FINANCIAL, LICENSING, PERMITS & INSPECTIONS**

Mrs. Woody made a presentation of the HVAC Bureau's financial report for the first two months of the 2005 fiscal year.

Mr. Hogander discussed advertising for the HVAC Bureau through the HVAC and plumbing industries (3,500+ memos distributed); the status on permits and inspections (deadline: January 1, 2005); and the status of HVAC licensing and inspector training.

Mr. Perkins, with IAPMO, offered to provide free training and codebooks to all inspectors.

### **AGENDA – PLUMBING FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mrs. Woody made a presentation of the Plumbing Bureau's financial report for the first two months of the 2005 fiscal year. Two new inspectors, one in Northern and one in Eastern Idaho, were hired for this fiscal year.

Mr. Hogander stated there has been a 20% increase in permits and inspections over the last two years. The plumbing inspectors will be inspecting both plumbing and HVAC effective January 1, 2005. This will be a HUGE undertaking for the inspectors. He also stated that the HVAC Bureau has three more inspector positions coming up but that more inspectors will be needed as the Bureau grows.

Mr. Munroe stated that the Division is interviewing for three HVAC inspectors. The Division has asked for five more inspectors and three more office personnel, which isn't enough. The Division may ask for additional staff in the budget. He suggested that the Board and audience speak to their legislators.

Mr. Firkins offered the Board's assistance in getting more manpower, if need be, through the legislative process.

Mr. Firkins asked that we change the terminology from "Free Fund Balance" to "Plumbing Fund Balance" or "HVAC Fund Balance". Mr. Munroe explained that in statute it does state that it is the Idaho Plumbing Board Fund.

### **AGENDA – RATIO OF APPRENTICE TO JOURNEYMEN**

Mr. Coons stated that presently there is no ratio for journeyman/apprentice. He would like to see a ratio of one to three or one to four.

Mr. Kelly stated that the union has a ratio of one to one for the first one and the second apprentice would have four journeymen. Mr. Peterson stated the sheet metal workers have a ratio of three to one.

Mr. Firkins would like the Plumbing Bureau to look at what other agencies are doing and what their requirements are.

Mr. Firkins asked Mr. Kelly to submit a written statement to the Plumbing Bureau regarding journeymen/apprentice ratios throughout the state. He also suggested Mr. Kelly speak to Mr. John Cantrell, Bureau of Apprenticeship Training, to see what the requirements are for the Federal Bureau of Apprenticeship Training.

The majority of the Board felt a journeymen/apprentice ratio was a good idea, however; the one to one and four to one ratios were a little extreme.

Discussion ensued from the inspection/enforcement standpoint. Mr. Kelly offered his services, free of charge, as a volunteer compliance officer for the state. Mr. Firkins suggested Mr. Kelly meet with the Division of Building Safety. Mr. Munroe asked Mr. Kelly to put it in writing and he would take it to committees.

Mr. Firkins would like this subject addressed at the next board meeting.

### **AGENDA – FUND BALANCE**

The board briefly discussed the fund balance with one option to reduce fees.

Mr. Coon stated the city of Nampa has gone to a flat rate fee based on the square footage of a job rather than a per fixture fee, making it easier for the contractors.

It was agreed by all board members to defer this matter to the next board meeting. Mr. Firkins would also like to review the Electrical Bureau's flat rate system at the next board meeting.

### **AGENDA – SPRINKLER HYDRANTS**

Mr. Hogander stated that Jack Gleason and Gary Franz were to make a presentation, however; neither were able to attend the meeting.

Mr. Hogander's understanding was that Mr. Milford Terrell and Mr. Bill Thompson, Water Quality Association District, were possibly considering having the Plumbing Board require wall hydrants in all houses throughout the state.

The Board briefly discussed sprinkler hydrants. Questions asked: Are they a full flow wall hydrant, what is the purpose, are they frost free, who would install them and are they code approved.

Mr. Firkins asked that this item be put on the agenda for the next board meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS – STUDOR, INC. – AIR ADMITTANCE VALVES**

Mr. Pat O'Neil with Studor, Inc., made an introduction/presentation on air admittance valves and Studor, Inc.

Mr. O'Neil offered to provide training seminars on the limitations and installations of their product to our inspectors and plumbers.

Mr. O'Neil to provide to Mr. Hogander a list of names and numbers of builders and/or inspectors in other states using their product. Mr. Hogander will then make the list available to the board members and the public. Mr. O'Neil to supply an older vent to Mr. Coon for his review.

Mr. Firkins would like this item put on the next board meeting agenda. He would like the board members to visit with their associates in the trade and labor organizations regarding this product. He suggests the board members and interested parties carefully review the Uniform Plumbing Code Section 301.2, to be discussed at the next meeting.

### **AGENDA ITEM - OLD BUSINESS**

None.

### **MOTION**

A Motion was made to adjourn the Plumbing Board meeting. The Motion was seconded. The Motion was approved by unanimous vote. The Plumbing Board meeting was adjourned at 12:42 p.m.

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DAVE MUNROE, SECRETARY  
SECRETARY OF THE BOARD

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DATE

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RENEE BRYANT  
MINUTES RECORDER

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